Corporation with equity participation of both Centre and State;

(b) if so, whether the proposal was mooted during the Welfare Minister's Conference held in 1996;

(c) if so, whether Government have examined the proposal; and

(d) by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) The Government has decided to set up the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 to promote economic developmental activities, self employment and other ventures for the benefit/economic rehabilitation of the handicapped persons with an authorised share capital of Rs. 400 crores (Rupees Four Hundred Crores only) divided into 40 lakhs (Forty Lakhs) equity share of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand) each. The paid-up capital would be Rs. 200 crores. The entire equity will be held by Government of India, to begin with.

(b) to (d) The decision to set up the Corporation had already been taken prior to the meeting of the State Ministers of Welfare held in 1996. However, it was recommended by the State Ministers of Welfare that National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation may be set up most expeditiously with equity participation of both Central and State Governments. It will give loans to persons with disabilities for undertaking self-employment projects, pursuing higher/ technical education etc. with a view to bring them into the mainstream of economic activity. Efforts are being made to operationalise the Corporation as early as possible.

Expert Committee on Tobacco

203. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from Central Trade Unions on the need to form a separate Expert Committee on Tobacco; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representations have been received in this Ministry from the Indian National Trade Union Congress and other Central Trade Unions suggesting constitution of a seperatc Expert Committee or Working Group or an Internal Reveiw Committee to consider the fallout on employment of the proposed legislation by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have appointed an Expert Committee to go into the different aspects of tobacco use including employment aspect and decided to provide an opportunity among others to the representatives of Trade Unions and Employers of beedi workers to formulate their views singly or jointly and place them before the Deputy Director General of Health Services of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare who is one of the members of the Expert Committee for bringing the same to the notice of the Government. The Central Trade Unions have accordingly been informed.

भारतीय उद्योग का विकास

204. श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला: क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या एक अध्ययन के अनुसार 1994-95 के दौरान भारतीय उद्योग के विकास में 8.4 प्रतिशत वृद्धि तथा चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के प्रथम पांच महीनों के दौरान 14.2 प्रतिशत से भी अधिक संतोषप्रद वृद्धि के बावजूद भारतीय उद्योग का विकास 1980 के दशक की तुलना में असंतोषजनक रहा है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके मुख्य कारण क्या है;

(ग) क्या इन तथ्यों की जानकारी औद्योगिक उत्पादन के सूचकांक के अध्ययन से हुई है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ङ) वर्ष 1996 के प्रथम छः महीनों के दौरान औद्योगिक विकास की स्थिति क्या रही है;